

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. Y8
DATE Jan. 28, 2009
BILL NO. SB 120



January 28, 2009

Chairman Kelly Gebhardt
and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee
Montana Senate
P.O. Box 200400
Helena Mt 59620-0400

RE: SB 120

Dear Chairman Gebhardt and members of the Natural Resources Committee,

The Association of Montana Public Health Officials (AMPHO) supports Senate Bill 120, revising Controlled Ground Water Area laws, with amendments offered by the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District. AMPHO is an organization composed of the directors of local public health departments from across the state.

Senate Bill 120 clarifies the process by which controlled ground water areas are established by revising the contested case process with an administrative process. Reduction of conflict and cost are the benefits of this change.

AMPHO does not support the amendments that remove the public from the process. We respectfully request that Senate Bill 120 be amended to maintain the public's ability to petition for controlled groundwater areas.

Thank you for considering these comments and requested amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Reynolds", is written over a horizontal line.

Melanie Reynolds, M.P.H.
Health Officer
Lewis and Clark County
AMPHO Legislative Committee